

EARTH STAR SHIP DISCOVERER

Long Range Planetary Assault and Landing Craft,  
decommissioned in 2180 and converted to a deep space  
research vessel.

# BUREAU OF CIVIL INTERSTELLAR SHIPPING.

## INVESTIGATION DOSSIER:

SUBJECT: E.S.S. Discoverer.

REFERENCE: #1202354.

PURPOSE: Suspected eradication of crew via alien viral infestation.

DATE: 20 April 2183.

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Profiles of the above personnel are included further on.

## PLANET EARTH STAR SHIP DISCOVERER

**CLASSIFICATION:** Long Range Planetary Assault and Landing Craft, decommissioned in 2180 and converted to a deep space research vessel.

**DOCKING FACILITIES:** One forward docking port and forward loading/unloading bay for use in port or at a landing site.

**CREW:** Basic crew numbers five; Commander, First Mate and Engineer, Navigator, Pilot, and Communications Officer.

**LIGHT SPEED CAPABILITIES:** Mark IIb Sinclair Hyperdrive Unit - scheduled for a refit after current voyage. Capable of 2.5 times light speed. Rest periods are essential to prevent overheating to the drive units.

**HULL SHIELDING:** Standard heat/ radiation shielding only (all military shielding stripped).

**RANGE:** Maximum fuel capacity for 90 light years (unloaded).

**CARGO SPACE:** Seperate cargo and equipment bays provide maximum total of 300 tonnes approximately.

### MISSION DETAILS

**MISSION:** Research expedition to the Edanus System, specifically the planet Edan III.

**SHIP'S MASTER:** Commander Renfield, formerly served 15 years distinguished service in the Martian Navy (3rd Fleet). He has commanded the Discoverer for the past three years.

**CREW LIST:** Not disclosed.

**PASSENGERS:** Professor Eikophf, Ivan - of Bonn University (Alien Genetics Dept.) and his lab. assistant Schmidt, Adolf.

**CARGO:** Botanical and cartographic equipment with a variety of other miscellaneous equipment, convicts (specifically rebel colonists) and various lab. animals.

### PERSONEL LIST.

1. Payne, S. Rank of Captain.
2. Newson, A. Rank of Flight Lieutenant.
3. Erskine, K. Rank of Corporal.
4. Russel, C. Civilian (Doctor).
5. Lawson, N. Civilian (Observer).

Profiles of the above personel are included further on.

## PLANETARY DATA FOR DISCOVERER'S MISSION.

Some brief information on the Discoverer's destination now follows, the Edanus star system. However please note the Discoverer was returning to Earth before he tragedy. As Prof. Eikophf's work on Edan III has not been disclosed by the relevent authorities this is the only background information we can provide.

**EDANUS SYSTEM** - A large yellow star (about twice the size of the sun) possessing a system of twelve planets. Only one of these bears life, Edan III, and was discovered only fifty years ago making it the most recently discovered life-bearing system.

### EDAN III

**EQUATORIAL DIAMETER:** twice that of Earth, approximately 25512KM.

**ATMOSPHERE:** Oxygen 30%, Carbon Dioxide 6%, Nitrogen 59%, Argon 4%, other 1%. Edan III's atmospheric pressure is only slightly higher than Earth's, the difference is considered negligible.

**GRAVITY:** Similar to Earth's, 1.012Gs approx.

**DISTANCE FROM PARENT STAR:** 301,300,000 KM approx.

**SIDEREAL MOTION (Edan days):** 26.2 hours.

**ORBITAL DURATION (Edan years):** 2.12 Earth years.

### COMMENTS:

Edan III is mainly a sub-tropical planet, it possesses no polar ice-caps and has only one desert which is about the size of all Earth's deserts combined.

The land/ sea ratio is approximately the same as Earth, though it has only one ocean and a large number of seas which are about the size of the Atlantic Ocean\*.

The planet has no sign of intelligent life on its surface or indeed on any of its eight moons, meaning Man is still the most advanced and highly developed creature in the known universe. This has, however, not prevented the wild reports of alien ships and monsters, mostly on the fringes of Man's exploration into the galaxy, from occurring with alarming regularity - rather reminiscent of the myths created by early seafarers on Earth.

Edan III is considered ideal for colonisation and has been designated as an 'agricultural' and 'timber' class planet as it bears very few mineral deposits of commercial quality. Colonisation rights are owned by the European Food Conglomerate, operations will begin once the UN Court of Human Rights finds the company not responsible for the deaths of half a million Ethiopians who ate food packages donated by the company to help alleviate the famine of 2180.

\*That is the size of this ocean prior to the global warming which decreased the Arctic to half its 1999 area.

## INVESTIGATION TEAM PROFILES.



**SUBJECT:** Captain Payne, S.  
**OCCUPATION:** Soldier - Planetary Assault Regiment (PARAs).  
**STATUS:** Commander of Investigation Team.  
**COMMENTS:**

Payne is a professional, experienced soldier with ten years military service behind him. His last mission was in the recent successful raid on Nu-Venus, an important planet in the Crab Nebula which led to the eventual recapture of that entire star system by our armed forces from the rebel colonists. He was called back from leave in order to lead this investigation.

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**SUBJECT:** Corporal Erskine, K.  
**OCCUPATION:** Soldier - also Planetary Assault Regiment.  
**STATUS:** Aide to Doctor Russel.  
**COMMENTS:**

Another experienced soldier with six years service behind him, three with Captain Payne. He has recently returned to active service after a long period of recuperation from injuries received when his platoon was almost wiped out by a rebel bomb attack.

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**SUBJECT:** Flight Lieutenant Newson, A.  
**OCCUPATION:** Interstellar Space Force (Transport and Supply Division).  
**STATUS:** Pilot and 2nd in command.  
**COMMENTS:**

Newson is an experienced pilot and is familiar with many designs of space craft including the Discoverer. He has had no combat experience, having been assigned to the Transport Division since the start of his career. Here he has remained despite numerous requests for transfer to an active combat squadron.

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PHOTOGRAPH  
NOT  
RELEASED.

SUBJECT: Lawson, N.  
OCCUPATION: Not disclosed - believed low ranking civil servant.  
STATUS: Official observer.  
COMMENTS:

Lawson has been forced upon this investigation by higher authorities, as you may see from this profile, very little information has been offered. Nor have we been able to acquire any from other sources. It may be a good idea to keep an eye on him, not least because if anything happens to him the bureaucrats will not be pleased if anything happens to him.



SUBJECT: Dr. Russel, C.  
OCCUPATION: Biochemist and virologist, Institute of Extra-Solar Diseases, Martian Federal State.  
STATUS: To diagnose and deal with suspected alien viral infection.  
COMMENTS:

Russel has worked at the Institute for five years after being educated at the Lunar University. She helped to find the cure to the infamous Capellan Death, a rather virulent plague which wiped out early settlers to that star system and led to a huge loss of profits for the Western Spiral-Arm company who owned the colony rights.

### BRIEF MISSION DETAILS.

To be backed up by interview by Shipping Coordinator.

The ESS Discoverer is now on automatic pilot, she is travelling in a hyperspace rest period and is therefore at sub-light speeds. You are advised to return to base within your shuttle upon completion of this investigation though, depending on the scale of the problem, you may have to accompany the Discoverer all the way on her return journey. Either way you must report the situation before landing so the bay crews will have time to make any necessary preparations.

You are instructed to fully investigate and report the situation and give full support to Doctor Russel in dealing with the suspected virus or cause of the crew's demise.

The Bureau will expect a full written report from each team member upon completion of the mission. Furthermore, the Discoverer lies in an unprotected space lane. Should the vessel be attacked or boarded by rebel terrorists we will be unable to provide assistance. Good luck.

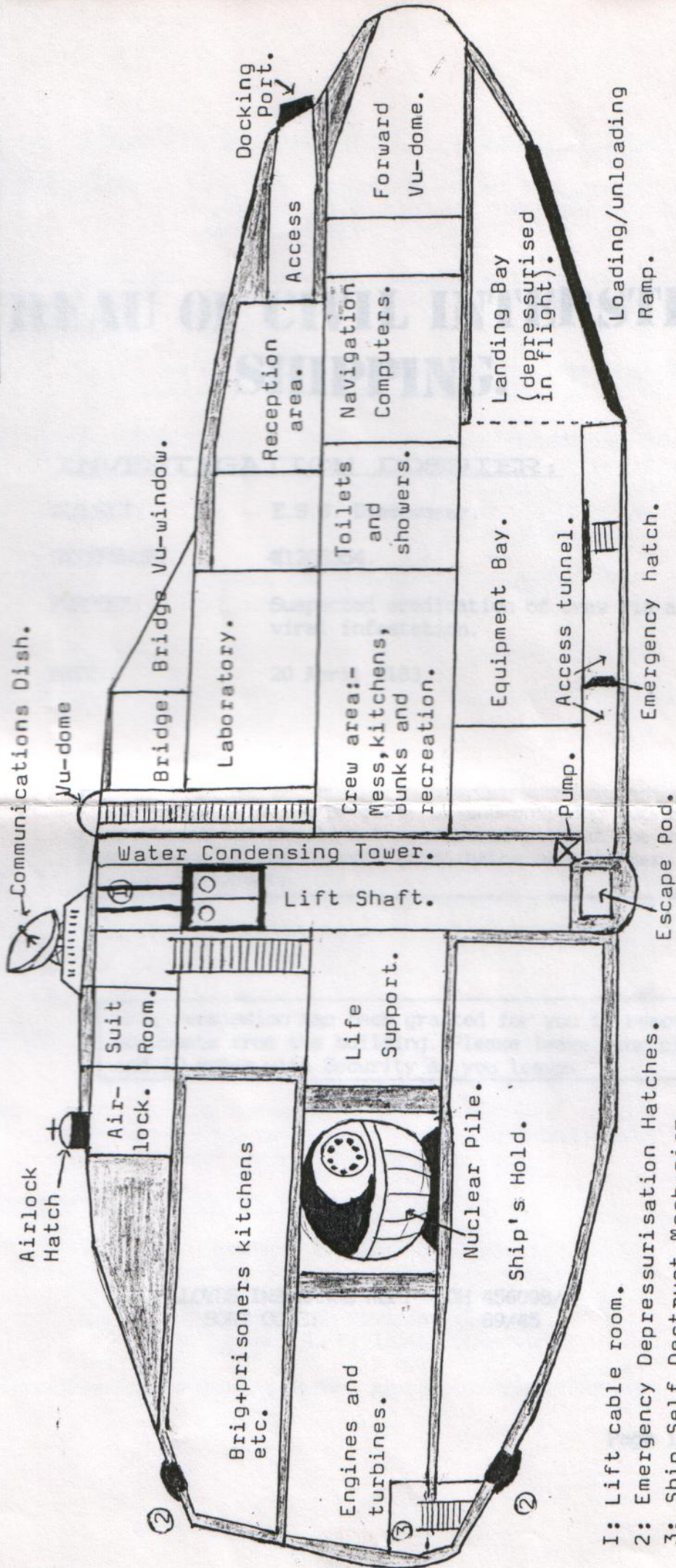
# Earth Star Ship Discoverer.

Deck plan of ship in profile.



Fuel tanks and landing gear held in 'wings'.

Rear view of ship.



1: Lift cable room.

2: Emergency Depressurisation Hatches.

3: Ship Self Destruct Mechanism.

☒: Permanent bulkheads and hull shielding.